DC
IT'S A BOWLING FAMILY REUNION!
SWEATSHOP
#6
NOV 03
BAGGE
RYAN
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BLANCHARD
WRAY
P. BAGGE '03
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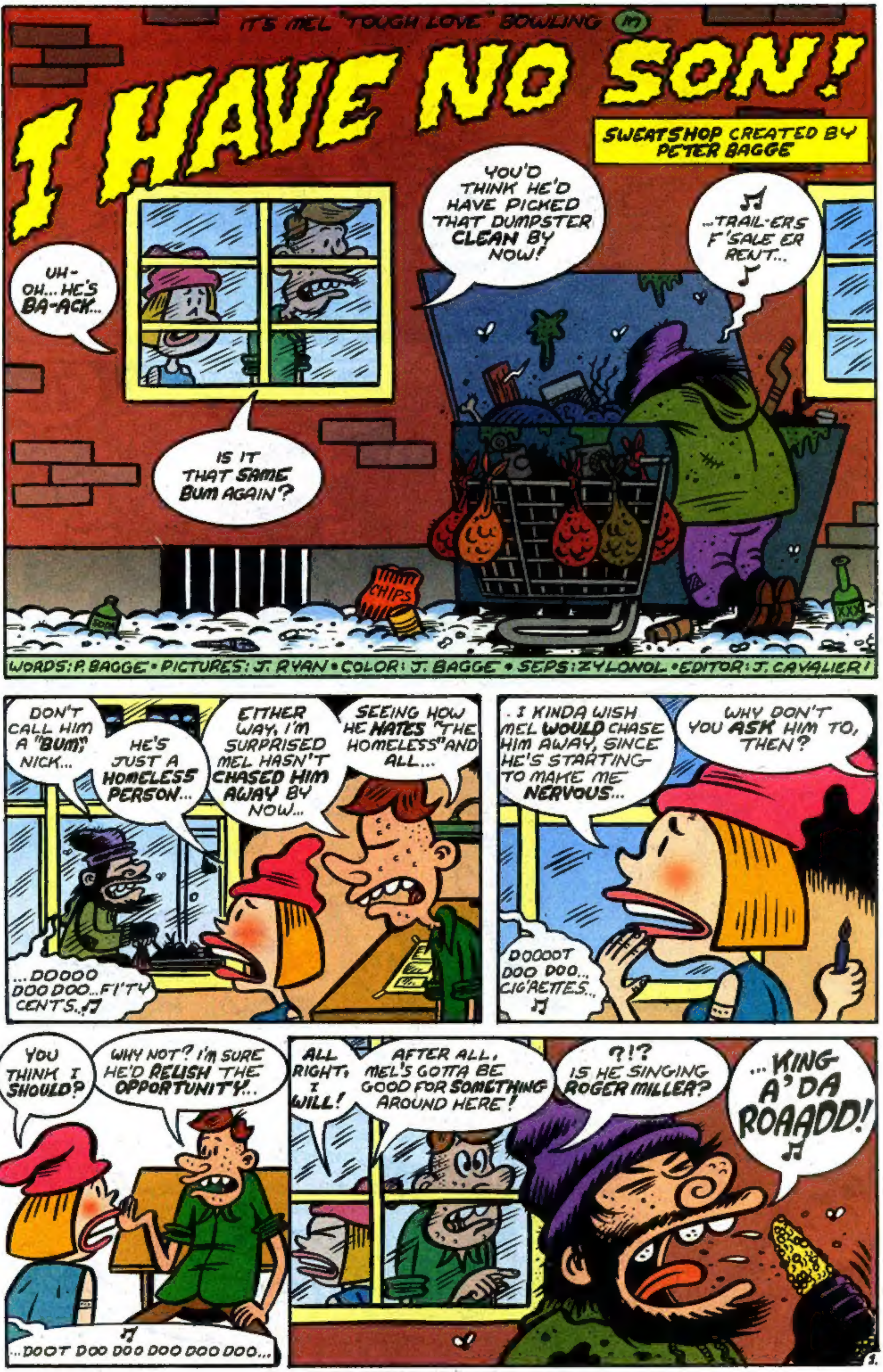
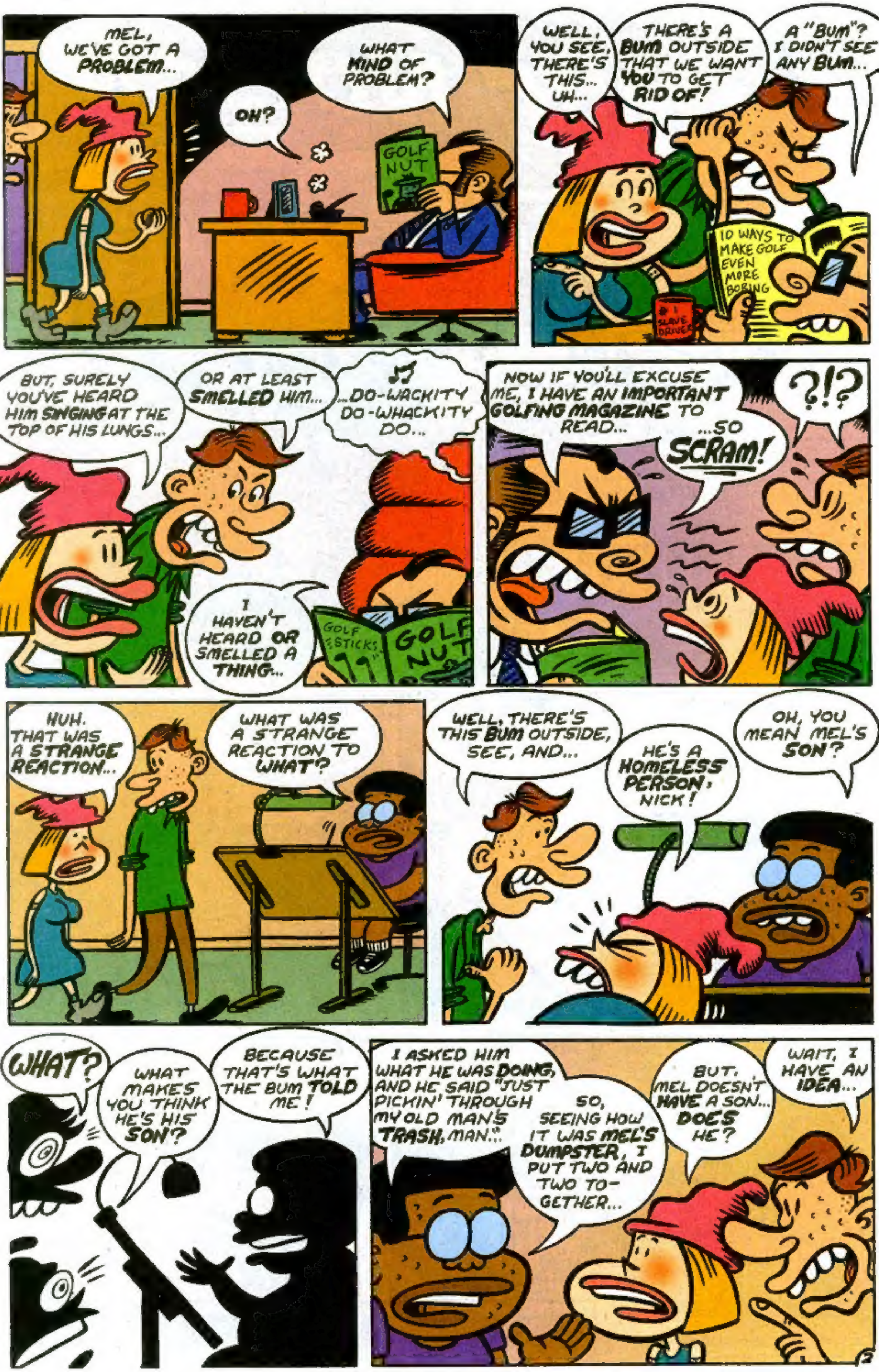
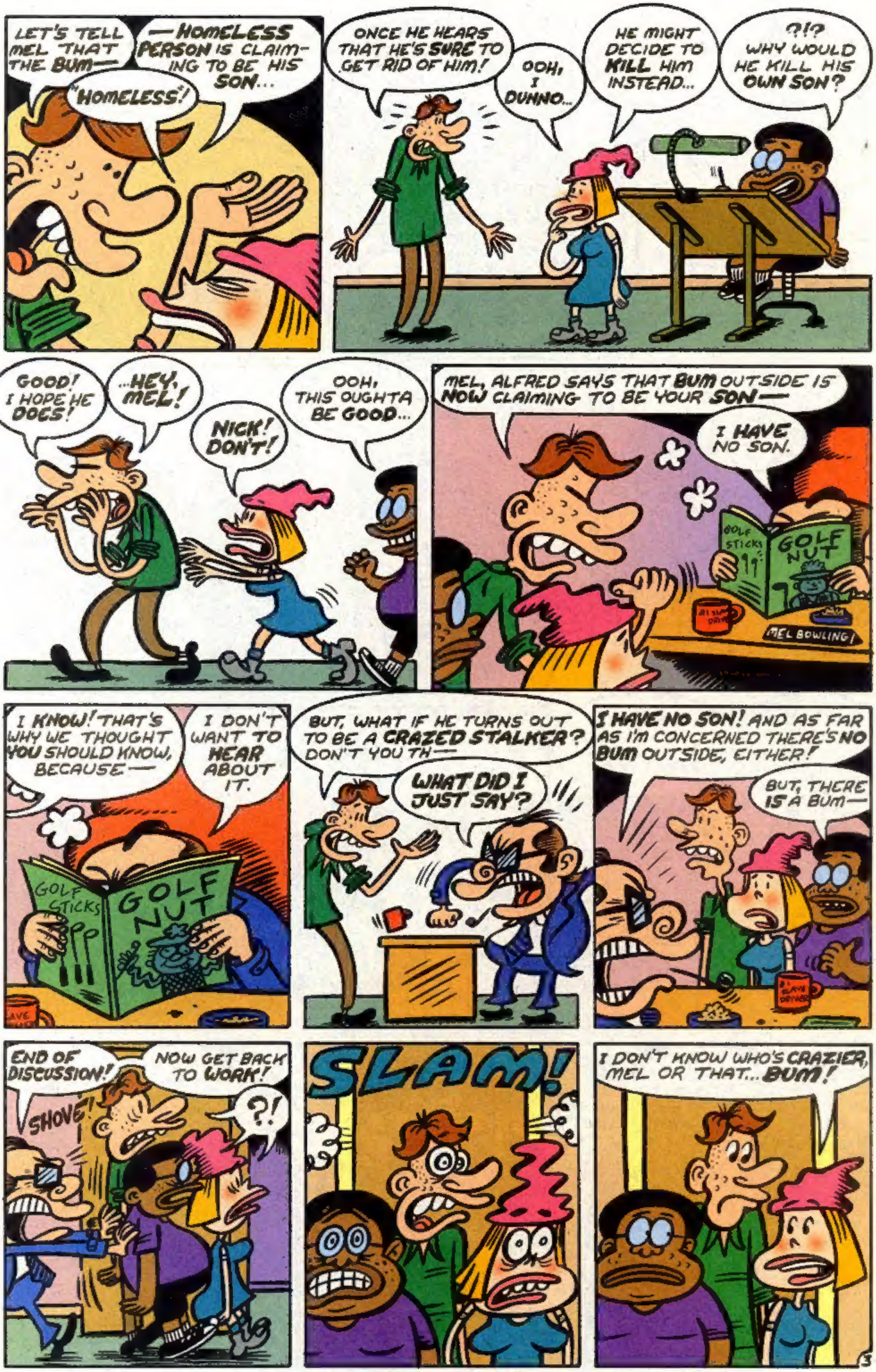

IT'S MEL "TOUGH LOVE" BOWLING IN
I HAVE NO SON!
SWEATSHOP CREATED BY PETER BAGGE
UH-OH... HE'S BA-ACK...
IS IT THAT SAME BUM AGAIN?
YOU'D THINK HE'D HAVE PICKED THAT DUMPSTER CLEAN BY NOW!
...TRAIL-ERS F'SALE ER RENT...
CHIPS
WORDS: P. BAGGE • PICTURES: J. RYAN • COLOR: J. BAGGE • SEPS: ZYLONOL • EDITOR: J. CAVALIER!
DON'T CALL HIM A "BUM," NICK...
HE'S JUST A HOMELESS PERSON...
EITHER WAY, I'M SURPRISED MEL HASN'T CHASED HIM AWAY BY NOW...
SEEING HOW HE HATES "THE HOMELESS" AND ALL...
...DOOOO DOO DOO...FI'TY CENTS..
I KINDA WISH MEL WOULD CHASE HIM AWAY, SINCE HE'S STARTING TO MAKE ME NERVOUS...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM TO, THEN?
DOOOOT DOO DOO... CIG'RETTES...
YOU THINK I SHOULD?
WHY NOT? I'M SURE HE'D RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY...
...DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO...
ALL RIGHT, I WILL!
AFTER ALL, MEL'S GOTTA BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING AROUND HERE!
?!? IS HE SINGING ROGER MILLER?
...KING A'DA ROAADD!
1.



MEL, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM...
OH?
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?
GOLF NUT
WELL, YOU SEE, THERE'S THIS... UH...
THERE'S A BUM OUTSIDE THAT WE WANT YOU TO GET RID OF!
A "BUM"? I DIDN'T SEE ANY BUM...
10 WAYS TO MAKE GOLF EVEN MORE BORING
BUT, SURELY YOU'VE HEARD HIM SINGING AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS...
OR AT LEAST SMELLED HIM...
...DO-WACKITY DO-WHACKITY DO...
I HAVEN'T HEARD OR SMELLED A THING...
GOLF STICKS
GOLF NUT
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT GOLFING MAGAZINE TO READ...
...SO SCRAM!
?!?
HUH. THAT WAS A STRANGE REACTION...
WHAT WAS A STRANGE REACTION TO WHAT?
WELL, THERE'S THIS BUM OUTSIDE, SEE, AND...
HE'S A HOMELESS PERSON, NICK!
OH, YOU MEAN MEL'S SON?
WHAT?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'S HIS SON?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE BUM TOLD ME!
I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND HE SAID "JUST PICKIN' THROUGH MY OLD MAN'S TRASH, MAN."
SO, SEEING HOW IT WAS MEL'S DUMPSTER, I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER...
BUT, MEL DOESN'T HAVE A SON... DOES HE?
WAIT, I HAVE AN IDEA...


LET'S TELL MEL THAT THE BUM—
—HOMELESS PERSON IS CLAIMING TO BE HIS SON...
"HOMELESS"!
ONCE HE HEARS THAT HE'S SURE TO GET RID OF HIM!
OOH, I DUNNO...
HE MIGHT DECIDE TO KILL HIM INSTEAD...
?!? WHY WOULD HE KILL HIS OWN SON?
GOOD! I HOPE HE DOES!
...HEY, MEL!
NICK! DON'T!
OOH, THIS OUGHTA BE GOOD...
MEL, ALFRED SAYS THAT BUM OUTSIDE IS NOW CLAIMING TO BE YOUR SON—
I HAVE NO SON.
GOLF STICKS
GOLF NUT
MEL BOWLING
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW, BECAUSE—
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
GOLF STICKS
GOLF NUT
BUT, WHAT IF HE TURNS OUT TO BE A CRAZED STALKER? DON'T YOU TH—
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
I HAVE NO SON! AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THERE'S NO BUM OUTSIDE, EITHER!
BUT, THERE IS A BUM—
END OF DISCUSSION!
NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
SHOVE!
?!
SLAM!
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S CRAZIER, MEL OR THAT...BUM!

LATER...
OMIGAH!
MILLIE IS TALKING TO THE BUM RIGHT NOW!
IS HE HITTING HER UP FOR SPARE CHANGE?
I DUNNO WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT...
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE LEAST BIT AFRAID OF HIM!
SHE'S A BRAVE WOMAN...
OR AN INSANE WOMAN!
—MILLIE! ARE YOU OKAY?
WHY WOULDN'T I BE OKAY?
?
WE SAW YOU BEING ACCOSTED BY THAT BUM OUTSIDE...
THAT'S NO "BUM"! THAT'S MY NEPHEW!
"YOUR NEPHEW"?
SO HE IS MEL'S SON?
WOULD MEL TOLERATE HIS HANGING AROUND IF HE WASN'T?
"TOLERATE"? HE WON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE HIS SON'S EXISTENCE!
YES, WELL, THE TWO OF THEM HAVE HAD THEIR DIFFERENCES...
...CHAD ALWAYS WAS A RATHER ECCENTRIC CHILD...
...HE AND HIS FATHER HAD A HARD TIME RELATING...
GOLF TIPS FOR LOSERS
—AHH! PAYDIRT!
"CHAD"?
AND ONCE HIS PARENTS GOT DIVORCED, THE RIFT ONLY GOT LARGER...
I'VE TRIED TO RECONCILE THEM, BUT IT'S NO USE...
SO THEY DON'T RELATE— IS THAT ANY REASON TO IGNORE SOMEONE?
OF COURSE NOT! THOUGH THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...
AND YOU KNOW HOW STUBBORN MEL IS...
WELL, I'M GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
GOLF CRAP
UH-OH...
I, UH, DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, CARRIE...
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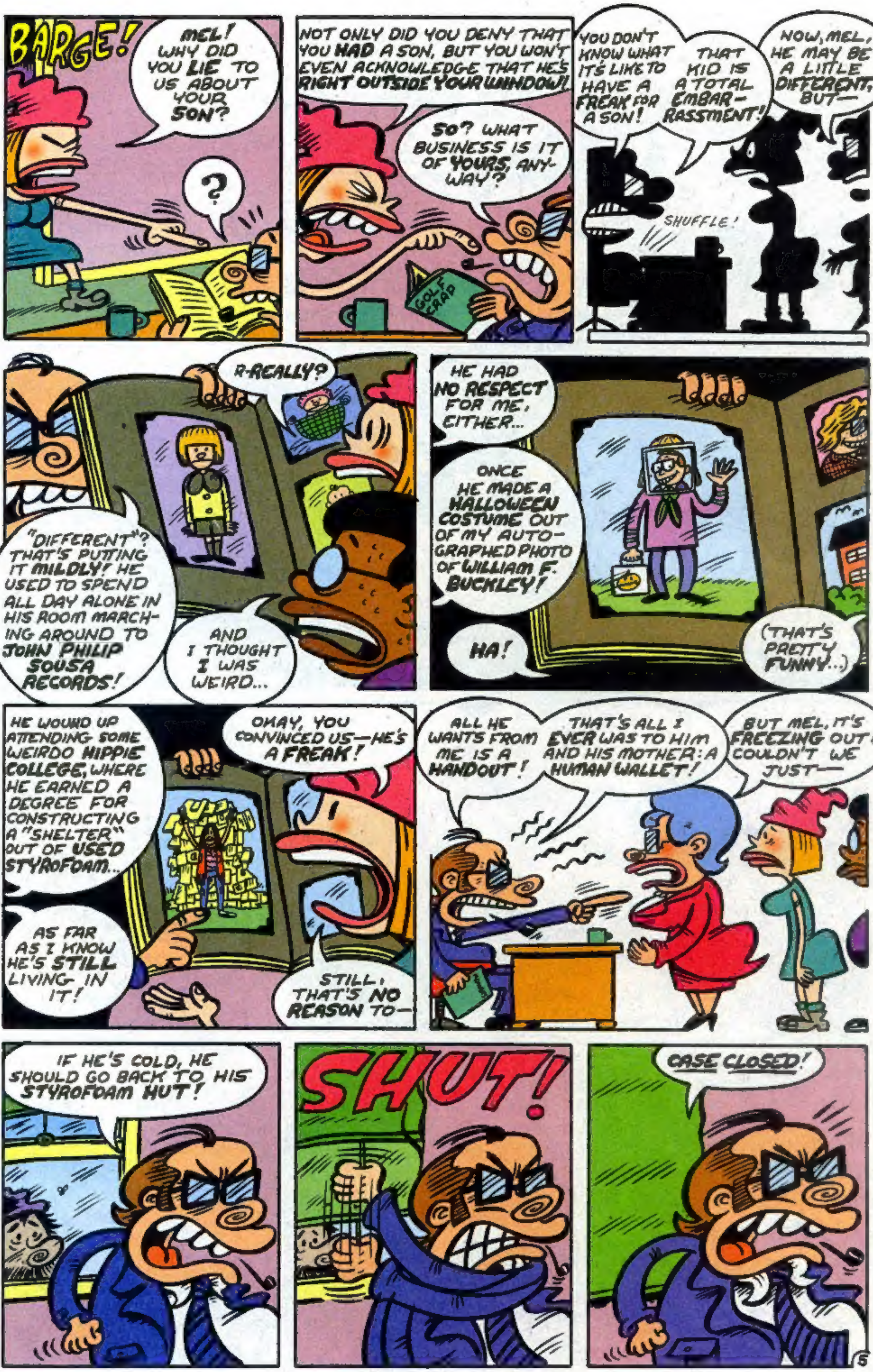
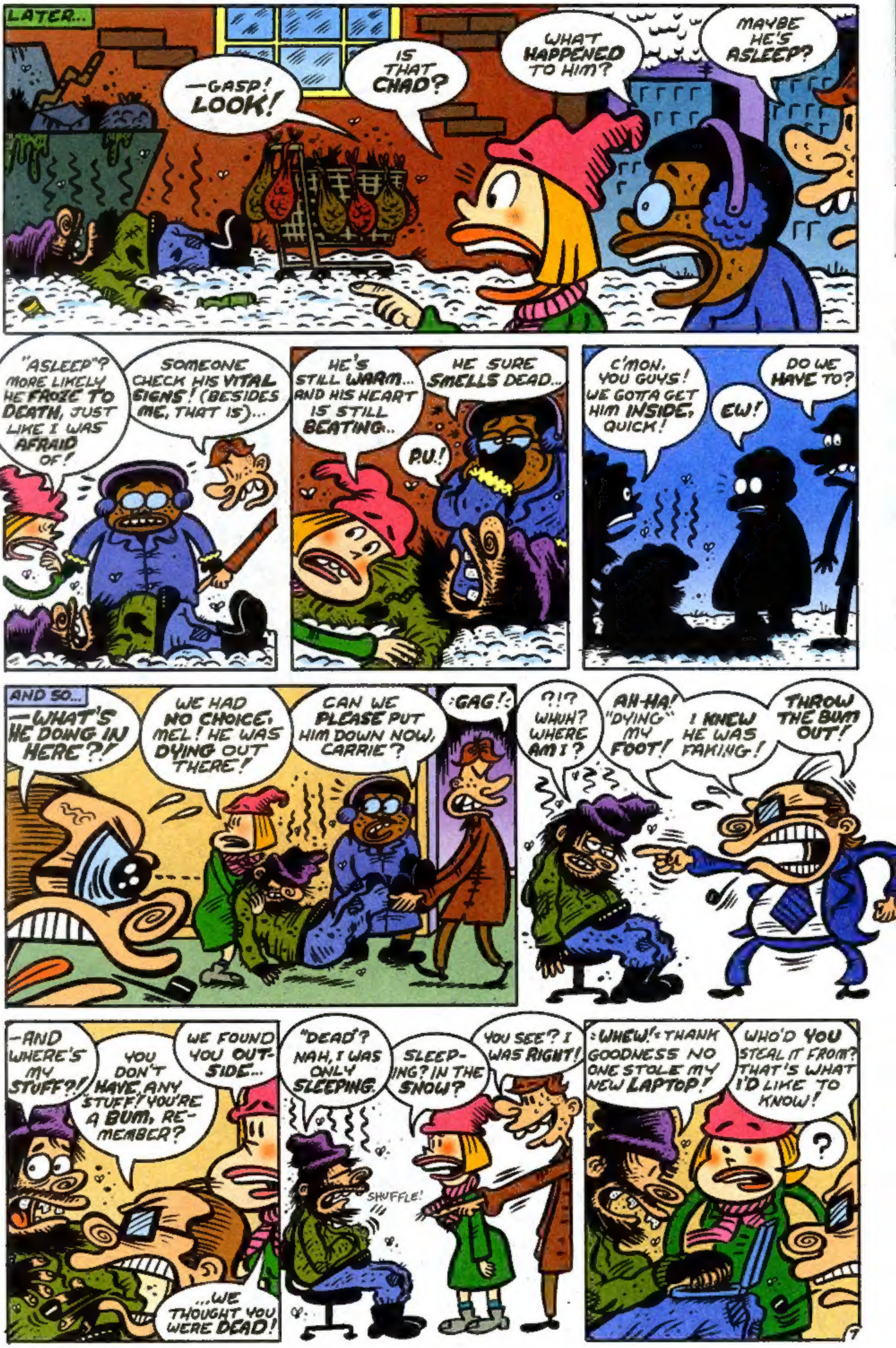
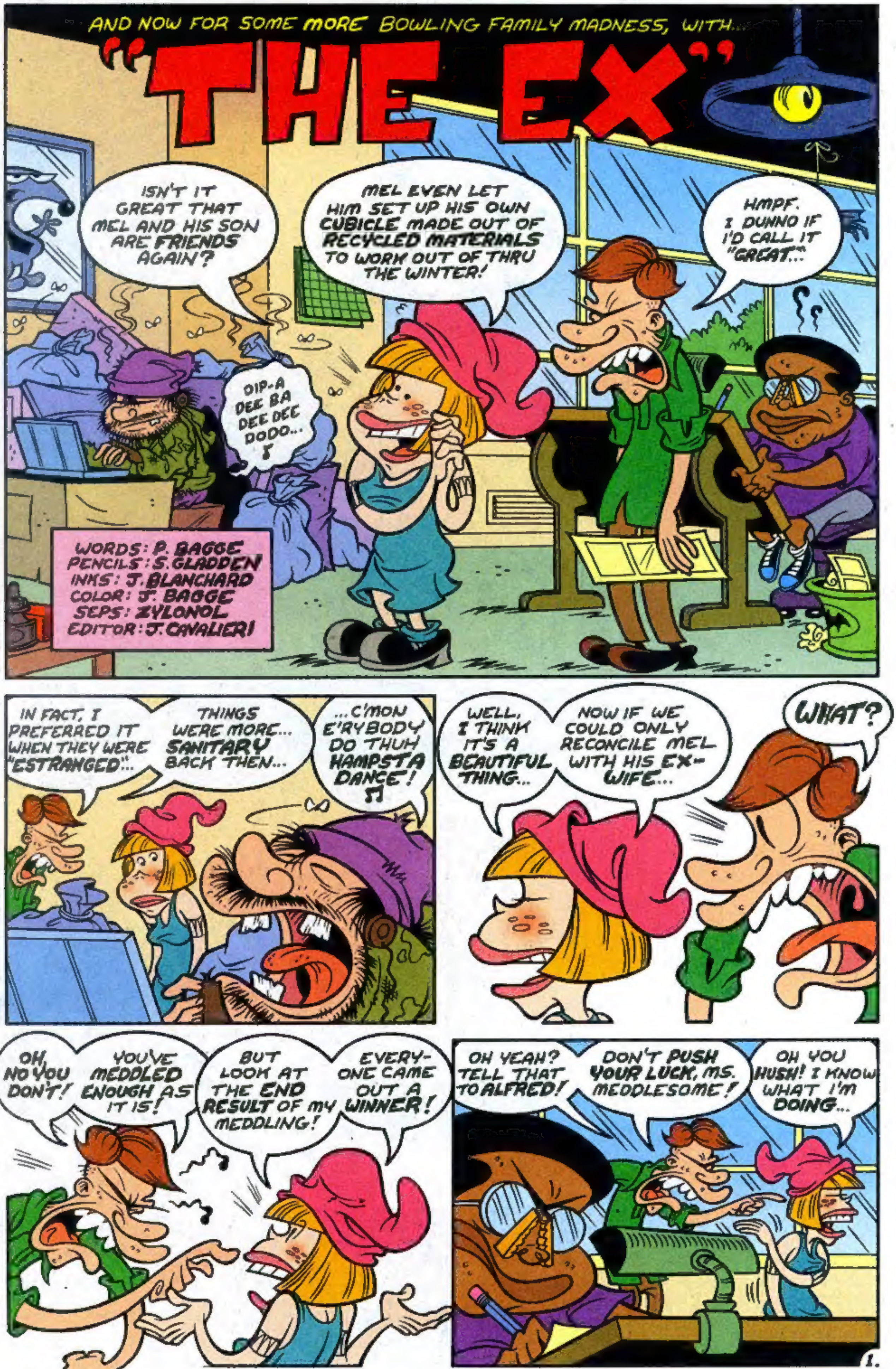

BARGE!
MEL! WHY DID YOU LIE TO US ABOUT YOUR SON?
?
NOT ONLY DID YOU DENY THAT YOU HAD A SON, BUT YOU WON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW!
SO? WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS, ANYWAY?
GOLF CRAP
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A FREAK FOR A SON!
THAT KID IS A TOTAL EMBARRASSMENT!
NOW, MEL, HE MAY BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT—
SHUFFLE!
R-REALLY?
"DIFFERENT"? THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY! HE USED TO SPEND ALL DAY ALONE IN HIS ROOM MARCHING AROUND TO JOHN PHILIP SOUSA RECORDS!
AND I THOUGHT I WAS WEIRD...
HE HAD NO RESPECT FOR ME, EITHER...
ONCE HE MADE A HALLOWEEN COSTUME OUT OF MY AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY!
HA!
(THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY...)
HE WOUND UP ATTENDING SOME WEIRDO HIPPIE COLLEGE, WHERE HE EARNED A DEGREE FOR CONSTRUCTING A "SHELTER" OUT OF USED STYROFOAM...
OKAY, YOU CONVINCED US—HE'S A FREAK!
AS FAR AS I KNOW HE'S STILL LIVING IN IT!
STILL, THAT'S NO REASON TO—
ALL HE WANTS FROM ME IS A HANDOUT!
THAT'S ALL I EVER WAS TO HIM AND HIS MOTHER: A HUMAN WALLET!
BUT MEL, IT'S FREEZING OUT! COULDN'T WE JUST—
IF HE'S COLD, HE SHOULD GO BACK TO HIS STYROFOAM HUT!
SHUT!
CASE CLOSED!
5

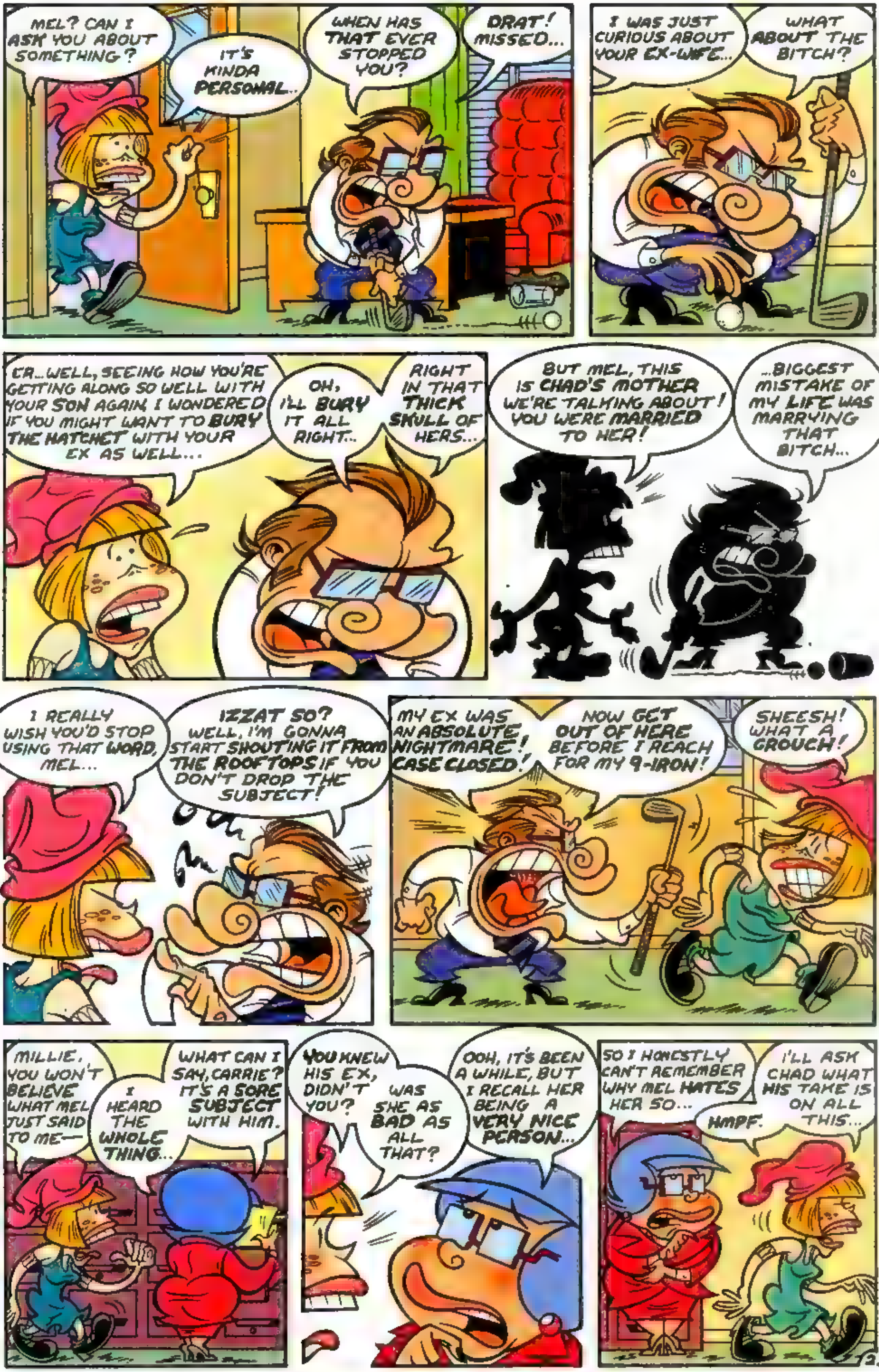
LUNCH BREAK!
...WELL, PERSONALLY, I'M OUTRAGED! SO WHAT IF CHAD'S A "WEIRDO"?
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR LEAVING YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD STRANDED OUT IN THE COLD!
BUT CHAD DOESN'T HAVE TO KEEP HANGING AROUND THE OFFICE, CARRIE.
White Fortress
YEAH. HE COULD ALWAY HOVER AROUND SOMEONE ELSE'S DUMPSTER!
BESIDES, MILLIE SAID SHE TRIED TO RECONCILE THEM, AND IT WAS HOPELESS...
HMPF. IF MY DAD STOPPED TALKING TO ME I'D BE THRILLED...
I DON'T CARE WHAT MILLIE SAID! I'M GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
LIKE WHAT?
YOU ALREADY "CONFRONTED" MEL ABOUT IT...
MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO CHAD...
YOU'RE GONNA TALK TO "MR. SMELLY"?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF HIM!
MILLIE SAYS HE'S PERFECTLY HARMLESS...
PLUS HE MUST BE HANGING AROUND FOR SOME REASON..
AND I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT!
MAYBE HE WANTS TO KILL HIS DAD!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR JOB OVER A BUM?
6

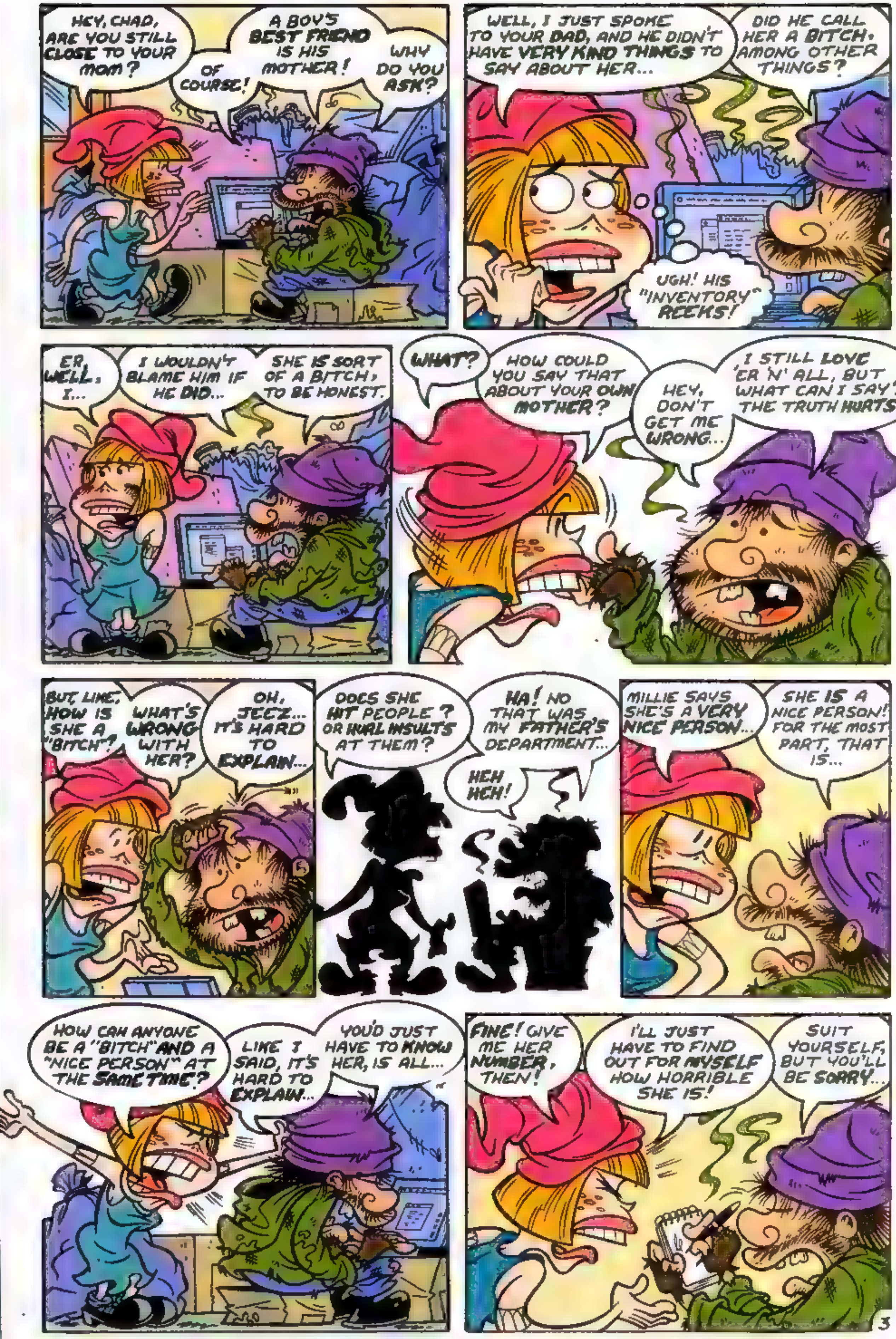

LATER...
—GASP! LOOK!
IS THAT CHAD?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
MAYBE HE'S ASLEEP?
"ASLEEP"? MORE LIKELY HE FROZE TO DEATH, JUST LIKE I WAS AFRAID OF!
SOMEONE CHECK HIS VITAL SIGNS! (BESIDES ME, THAT IS)...
HE'S STILL WARM... AND HIS HEART IS STILL BEATING...
HE SURE SMELLS DEAD...
P.U.!
C'MON, YOU GUYS! WE GOTTA GET HIM INSIDE, QUICK!
EW!
DO WE HAVE TO?
AND SO...
—WHAT'S HE DOING IN HERE?!
WE HAD NO CHOICE, MEL! HE WAS DYING OUT THERE!
CAN WE PLEASE PUT HIM DOWN NOW, CARRIE?
:GAG!:
?!? WHUH? WHERE AM I?
AH-HA! "DYING" MY FOOT! I KNEW HE WAS FAKING!
THROW THE BUM OUT!
—AND WHERE'S MY STUFF?!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY STUFF! YOU'RE A BUM, REMEMBER?
WE FOUND YOU OUTSIDE...
...WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
"DEAD"? NAH, I WAS ONLY SLEEPING.
SLEEPING? IN THE SNOW?
YOU SEE? I WAS RIGHT!
SHUFFLE!
:WHEW!: THANK GOODNESS NO ONE STOLE MY NEW LAPTOP!
WHO'D YOU STEAL IT FROM? THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!
?

I BOUGHT THIS WITH MY OWN MONEY, POPS!
JUST BECAUSE I LIVE AN "ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE," THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A THIEF!
A LIKELY STORY!
WHAT DO YOU NEED A LAPTOP, FOR, ANYWAY?
I NEED IT TO KEEP TRACK OF MY INVENTORY, FOR ONE THING...
WHAT "INVENTORY"? THE GARBAGE YOU COLLECT?
NOT JUST ANY "GARBAGE." IT'S CELEBRITY GARBAGE!
I COLLECT IT TO SELL ON MY WEBSITE...
HA! WHAT "CELEBRITY" DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND AROUND THESE PARTS?
WHY, YOU, OF COURSE, POPS!
—ME?!
AND SINCE YOU ARE MY DAD, MY SITE'S FANS WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN YOUR REFUSE!
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WEBSITE?
I AM A CELEBRITY, AREN'T I?...
CAN WE SEE?
WOW! COOL!
DID YOU DESIGN IT YOURSELF?
OF COURSE! THIS IS A ONE-MAN OPERATION!
DOES THIS MEAN YOU MAKE MONEY OFF THIS SITE?
CELEBRITY GARBAGE.com
TODAY'S SPECIAL
Meg Ryan's Banana Peel
STARTING BID: $290.00
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M CLEANING UP, POPS!
IN A FEW YEARS I'LL BE RETIRING TO PALM SPRINGS!
REALLY?
I LIKE YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, SON!
YOU'RE A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK AFTER ALL!
GEE, THANKS, POPS!
I'M GONNA CRY... :SNIFF:
I'M GONNA BE SICK...
I'M GONNA CALL THE FUMIGATORS!
END!
8

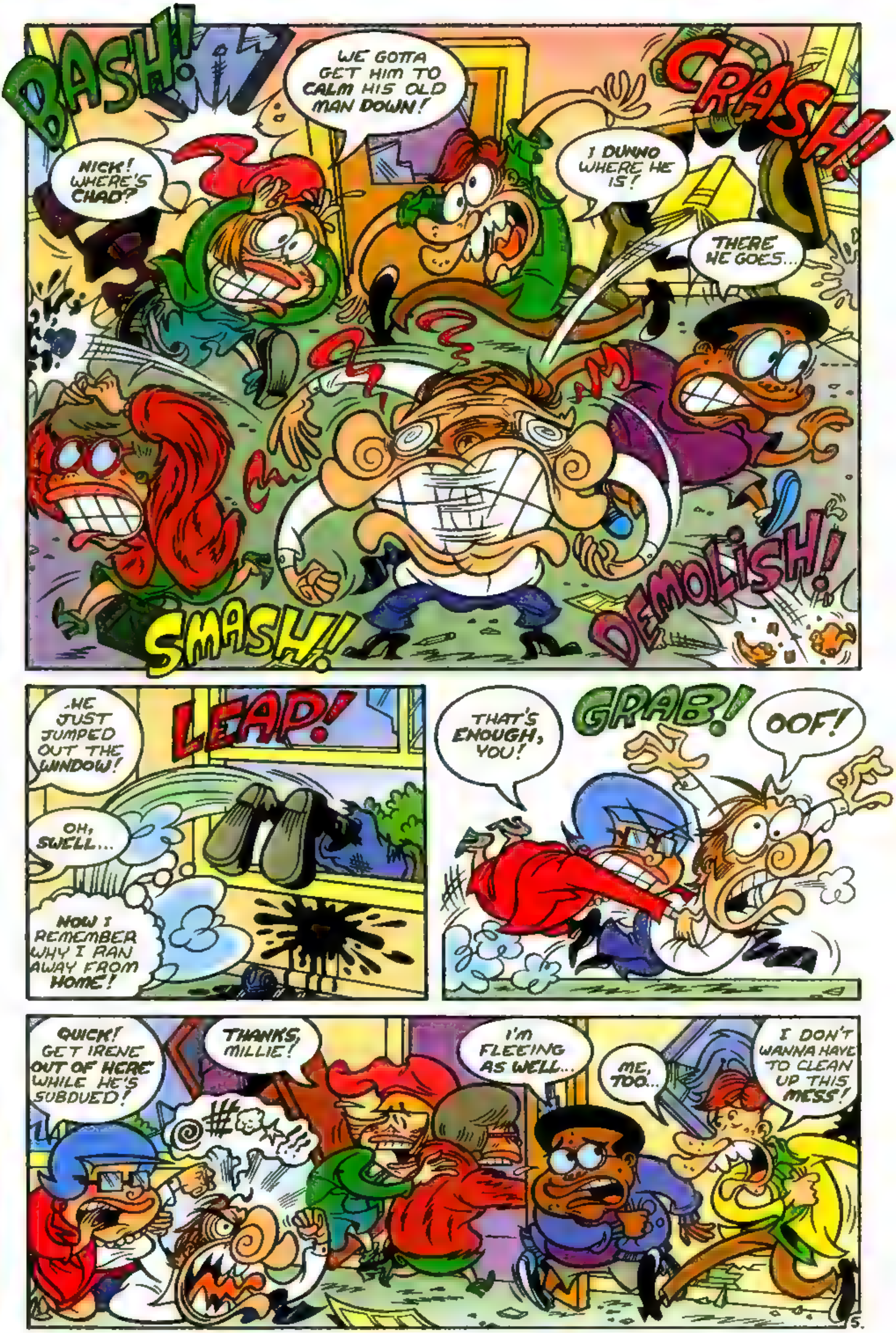


AND NOW FOR SOME MORE BOWLING FAMILY MADNESS, WITH...
"THE EX"
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT MEL AND HIS SON ARE FRIENDS AGAIN?
MEL EVEN LET HIM SET UP HIS OWN CUBICLE MADE OUT OF RECYCLED MATERIALS TO WORK OUT OF THRU THE WINTER!
HMPF. I DUNNO IF I'D CALL IT "GREAT."
DIP-A DEE BA DEE DEE DODO...
WORDS: P. BAGGE
PENCILS: S. GLADDEN
INKS: J. BLANCHARD
COLOR: J. BAGGE
SEPS: ZYLONOL
EDITOR: J. CAVALIERI
IN FACT, I PREFERRED IT WHEN THEY WERE "ESTRANGED"...
THINGS WERE MORE... SANITARY BACK THEN...
...C'MON E'RYBODY DO THUH HAMPSTA DANCE!
WELL, I THINK IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING...
NOW IF WE COULD ONLY RECONCILE MEL WITH HIS EX-WIFE...
WHAT?
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
YOU'VE MEDDLED ENOUGH AS IT IS!
BUT LOOK AT THE END RESULT OF MY MEDDLING!
EVERY-ONE CAME OUT A WINNER!
OH YEAH? TELL THAT TO ALFRED!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, MS. MEDDLESOME!
OH YOU HUSH! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING...

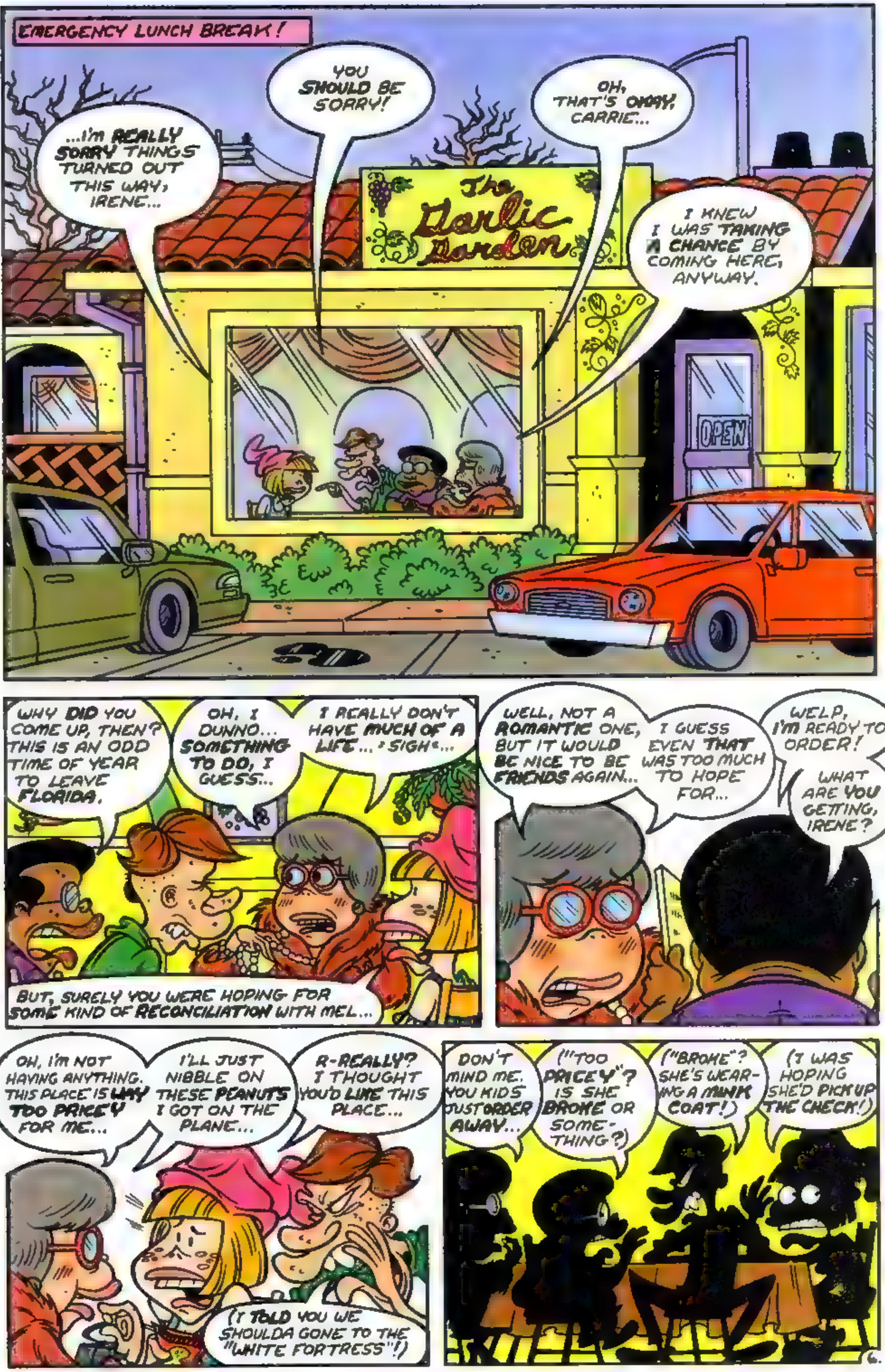

MEL? CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING?
IT'S KINDA PERSONAL...
WHEN HAS THAT EVER STOPPED YOU?
DRAT! MISSED...
I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR EX-WIFE...
WHAT ABOUT THE BITCH?
ER...WELL, SEEING HOW YOU'RE GETTING ALONG SO WELL WITH YOUR SON AGAIN, I WONDERED IF YOU MIGHT WANT TO BURY THE HATCHET WITH YOUR EX AS WELL...
OH, I'LL BURY IT ALL RIGHT...
RIGHT IN THAT THICK SKULL OF HERS...
BUT MEL, THIS IS CHAD'S MOTHER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU WERE MARRIED TO HER!
...BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE WAS MARRYING THAT BITCH...
I REALLY WISH YOU'D STOP USING THAT WORD, MEL...
IZZAT SO? WELL, I'M GONNA START SHOUTING IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS IF YOU DON'T DROP THE SUBJECT!
MY EX WAS AN ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARE! CASE CLOSED!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I REACH FOR MY 9-IRON!
SHEESH! WHAT A GROUCH!
MILLIE, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT MEL JUST SAID TO ME—
I HEARD THE WHOLE THING...
WHAT CAN I SAY, CARRIE? IT'S A SORE SUBJECT WITH HIM.
YOU KNEW HIS EX, DIDN'T YOU?
WAS SHE AS BAD AS ALL THAT?
OOH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT I RECALL HER BEING A VERY NICE PERSON...
SO I HONESTLY CAN'T REMEMBER WHY MEL HATES HER SO...
HMPF.
I'LL ASK CHAD WHAT HIS TAKE IS ON ALL THIS...
2.


HEY, CHAD, ARE YOU STILL CLOSE TO YOUR MOM?
OF COURSE!
A BOY'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS MOTHER!
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WELL, I JUST SPOKE TO YOUR DAD, AND HE DIDN'T HAVE VERY KIND THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HER...
DID HE CALL HER A BITCH, AMONG OTHER THINGS?
UGH! HIS "INVENTORY" REEKS!
ER, WELL, I...
I WOULDN'T BLAME HIM IF HE DID...
SHE IS SORT OF A BITCH, TO BE HONEST.
WHAT?
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR OWN MOTHER?
HEY, DON'T GET ME WRONG...
I STILL LOVE 'ER 'N' ALL, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? THE TRUTH HURTS!
BUT, LIKE, HOW IS SHE A "BITCH"?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
OH, JEEZ... IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...
DOES SHE HIT PEOPLE? OR HURL INSULTS AT THEM?
HA! NO THAT WAS MY FATHER'S DEPARTMENT...
HEH HEH!
MILLIE SAYS SHE'S A VERY NICE PERSON...
SHE IS A NICE PERSON! FOR THE MOST PART, THAT IS...
HOW CAN ANYONE BE A "BITCH" AND A "NICE PERSON" AT THE SAME TIME?
LIKE I SAID, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...
YOU'D JUST HAVE TO KNOW HER, IS ALL...
FINE! GIVE ME HER NUMBER, THEN!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF HOW HORRIBLE SHE IS!
SUIT YOURSELF, BUT YOU'LL BE SORRY...

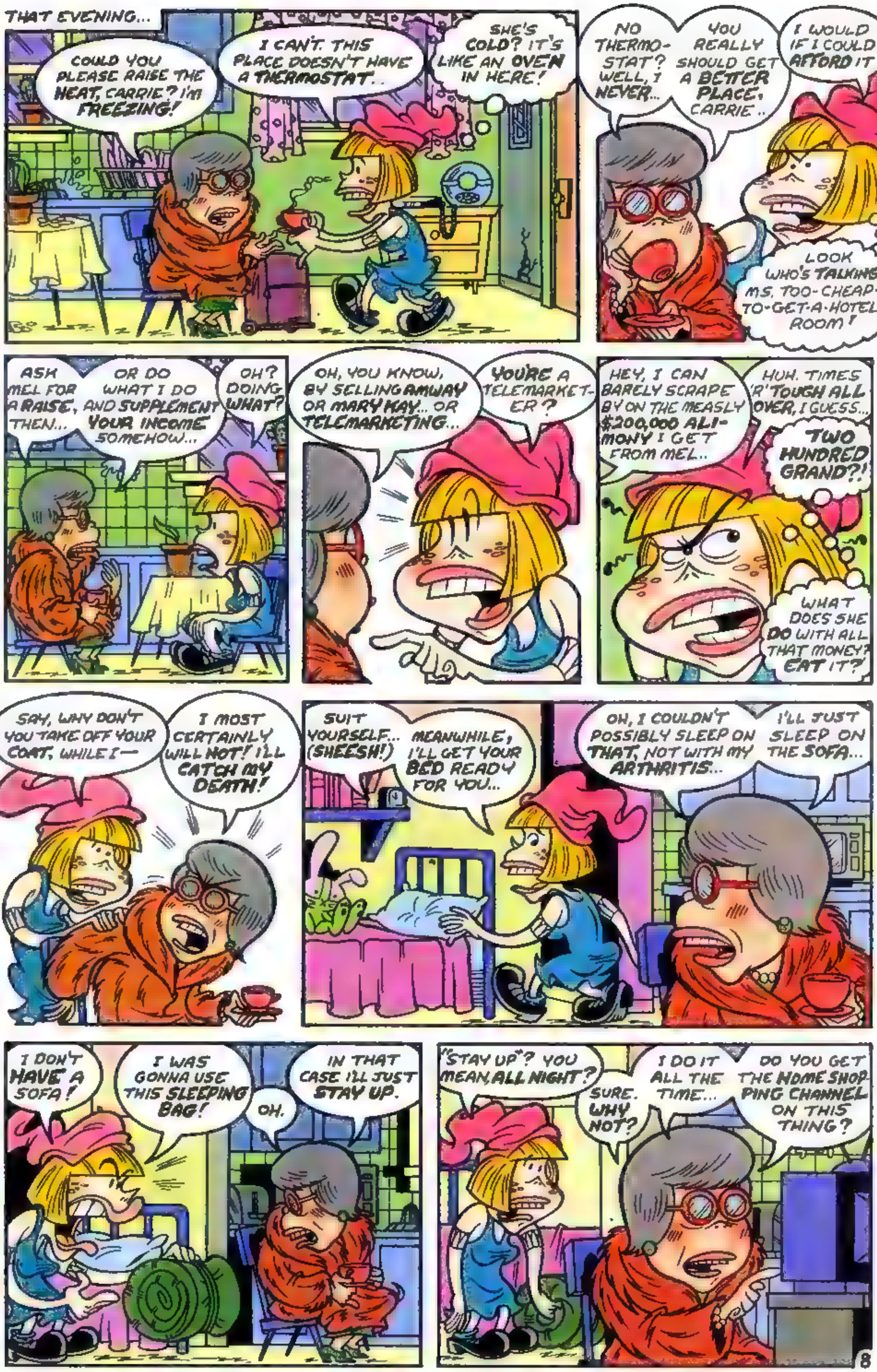
ONE WEEK LATER...
...I'M NOT SO SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, CARRIE...
:SIGH:
NONSENSE! IT'LL BE LIKE A FAMILY REUNION!
WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?
PLENTY! ASSUMING MEL IS STILL AS HOT-HEADED AS HE'S ALWAYS BEEN...
WHY WOULD HE GET MAD, IRENE? AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN ALMOST A DECADE SINCE HE LAST SAW YOU...
...AND NO ONE COULD HARBOR A GRUDGE FOR THAT LONG, RIGHT?
?!? WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES?!
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
MEL, REALLY! WHAT KIND OF GREETING IS THAT?
W-WHAT'S WRONG, MEL? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?
"GLAD"? THIS IS MY WORST NIGHT-MARE!
GET OUT, BEFORE I KILL YOU!!!
OH DEAR...
SMASH!
I TOLD YOU THIS WASN'T A GOOD IDEA...
YIKES!
:SIGH:



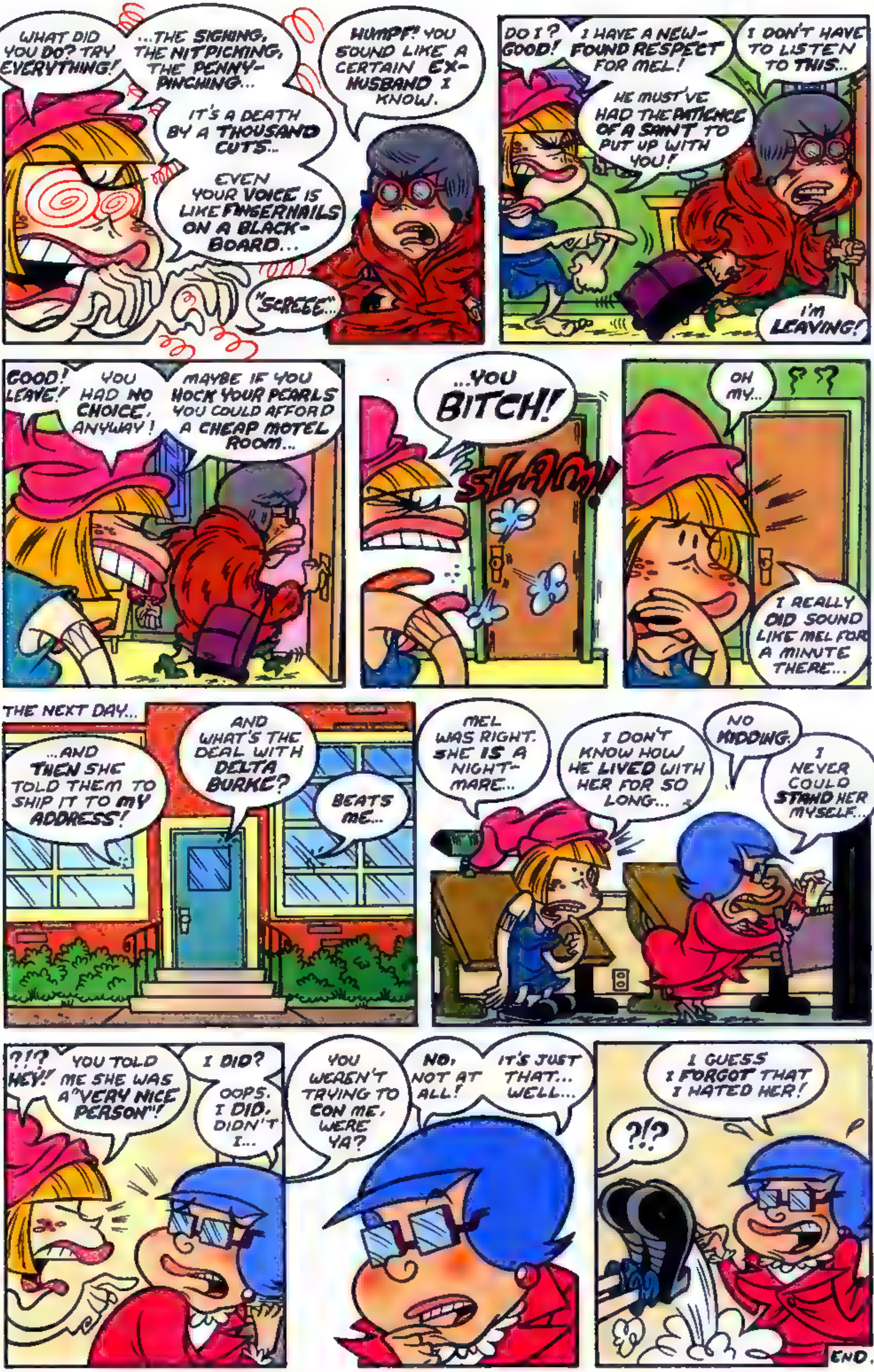
BASH!
NICK! WHERE'S CHAD?
WE GOTTA GET HIM TO CALM HIS OLD MAN DOWN!
I DUNNO WHERE HE IS!
CRASH!
THERE HE GOES...
SMASH!
DEMOLISH!
HE JUST JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW!
LEAP!
OH, SWELL...
NOW I REMEMBER WHY I RAN AWAY FROM HOME!
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU!
GRAB!
OOF!
QUICK! GET IRENE OUT OF HERE WHILE HE'S SUBDUED!
THANKS, MILLIE!
I'M FLEEING AS WELL...
ME, TOO...
I DON'T WANNA HAVE TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS!


EMERGENCY LUNCH BREAK!
...I'M REALLY SORRY THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY, IRENE...
YOU SHOULD BE SORRY!
OH, THAT'S OKAY, CARRIE...
I KNEW I WAS TAKING A CHANCE BY COMING HERE, ANYWAY.
The Garlic Garden
OPEN
WHY DID YOU COME UP, THEN? THIS IS AN ODD TIME OF YEAR TO LEAVE FLORIDA.
OH, I DUNNO... SOMETHING TO DO, I GUESS...
I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A LIFE... *SIGH*...
BUT, SURELY YOU WERE HOPING FOR SOME KIND OF RECONCILIATION WITH MEL...
WELL, NOT A ROMANTIC ONE, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN...
I GUESS EVEN THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR...
WELP, I'M READY TO ORDER!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING, IRENE?
OH, I'M NOT HAVING ANYTHING. THIS PLACE IS WAY TOO PRICEY FOR ME...
I'LL JUST NIBBLE ON THESE PEANUTS I GOT ON THE PLANE...
R-REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THIS PLACE...
(I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDA GONE TO THE "WHITE FORTRESS"!)
DON'T MIND ME. YOU KIDS JUST ORDER AWAY...
("TOO PRICEY"? IS SHE BROKE OR SOME-THING?)
("BROKE"? SHE'S WEAR-ING A MINK COAT!)
(I WAS HOPING SHE'D PICK UP THE CHECK!)

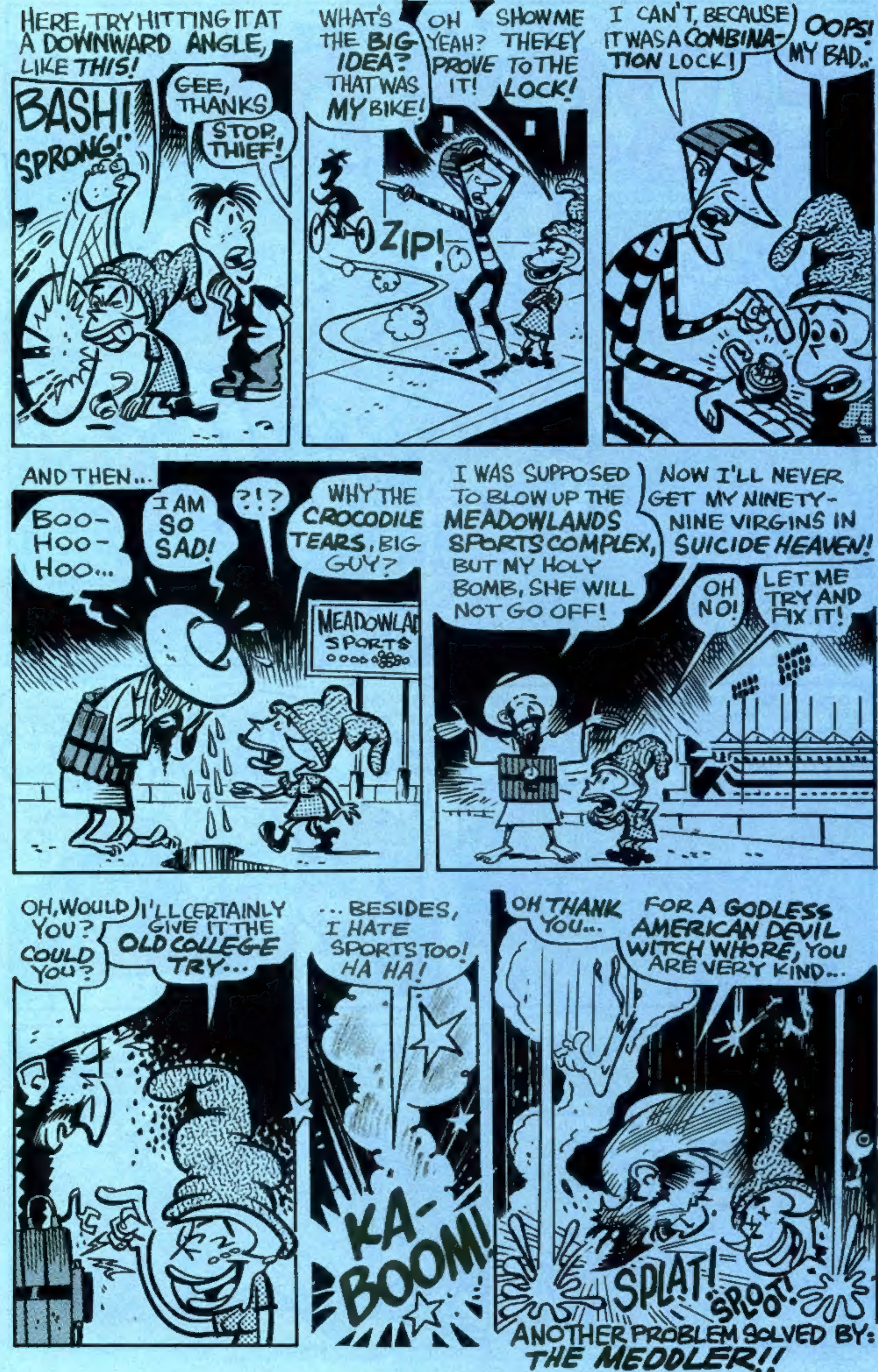
LATER...
SO, IRENE, WHAT HOTEL ARE YOU STAYING AT?
A HOTEL? SURELY YOU JEST...
THOSE PLACES ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.
OH... ARE YOU STAYING WITH A FRIEND, THEN?
I SUPPOSE I COULD, BUT I'VE BEEN AWAY SO LONG, AND I HAVEN'T KEPT IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE...
?
ER... WHAT ABOUT MILLIE?
OH, I COULDN'T IMPOSE ON HER...
SHE AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN CLOSE...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SON, CHAD?
CHAD LIVES IN A STYRO-FOAM YURT, REMEMBER?
OH YEAH... NEVER MIND...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO STAY?
WE-ELL, I WAS HOPING ONE OF YOU MIGHT HAVE A SUGGESTION...
I, UH, STILL LIVE WITH MY PARENTS...
AND MY APARTMENT IS TOO SMALL...
BUT NICK HERE HAS A BIG PLACE...
WHAT?
(NO WAY AM I GONNA PUT HER UP!)
(HER INCESSANT SIGHING WILL DRIVE ME CRAZY!)
(BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WITH HER?)
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, SO YOU SOLVE IT!
STOP POKING ME!
LOOK, I HATE TO BE A BOTHER...
I'LL JUST ASK MEL TO PUT ME UP...
WHAT?
NO!
HE MIGHT KILL YOU!
BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE...
=SIGH=

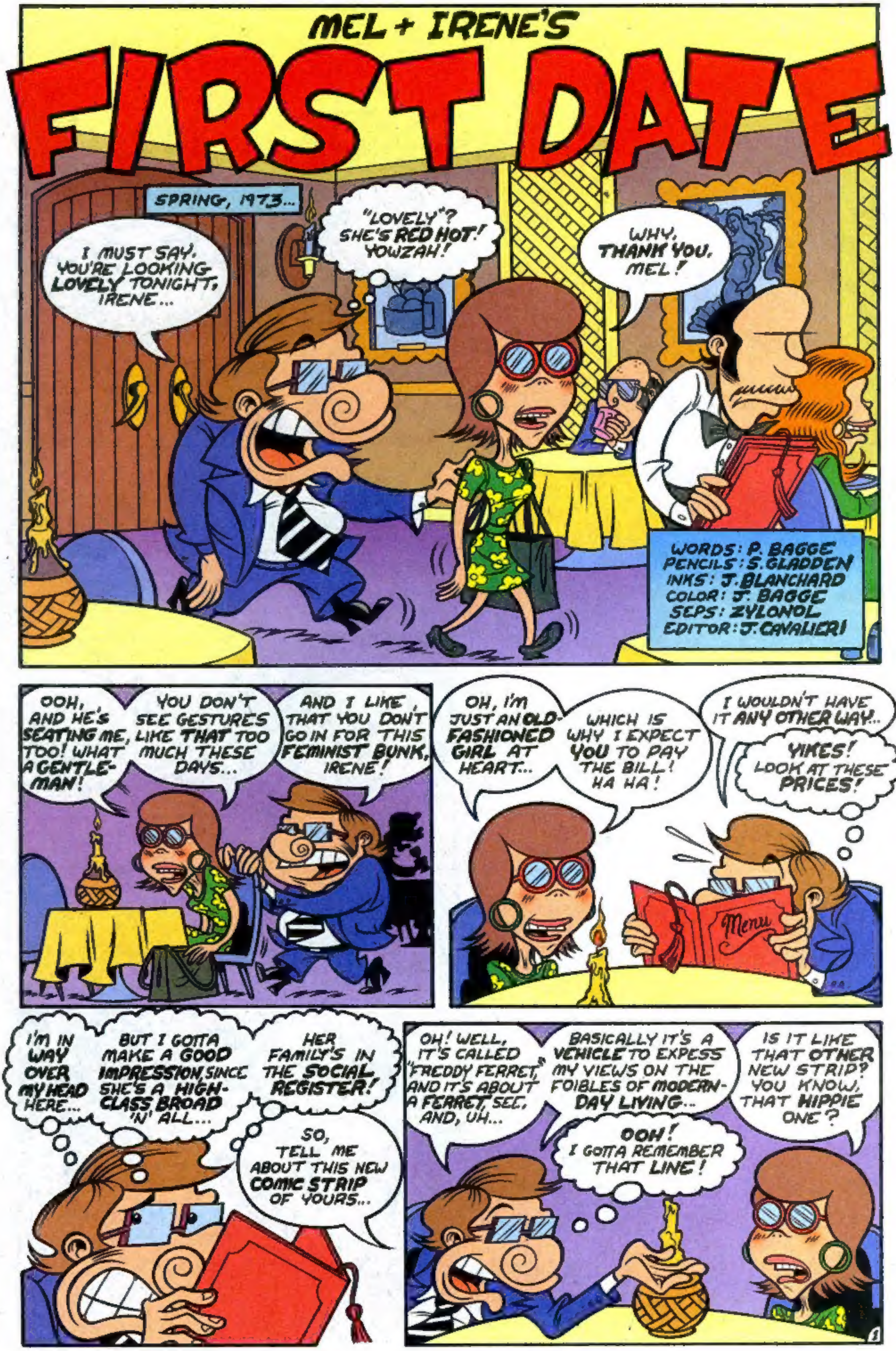

THAT EVENING...
COULD YOU PLEASE RAISE THE HEAT, CARRIE? I'M FREEZING!
I CAN'T. THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE A THERMOSTAT...
SHE'S COLD? IT'S LIKE AN OVEN IN HERE!
NO THERMO-STAT? WELL, I NEVER...
YOU REALLY SHOULD GET A BETTER PLACE, CARRIE...
I WOULD IF I COULD AFFORD IT
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, MS. TOO-CHEAP-TO-GET-A-HOTEL-ROOM!
ASK MEL FOR A RAISE, THEN...
OR DO WHAT I DO AND SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME SOMEHOW...
OH? DOING WHAT?
OH, YOU KNOW, BY SELLING AMWAY OR MARY KAY... OR TELEMARKETING...
YOU'RE A TELEMARKET-ER?
HEY, I CAN BARELY SCRAPE BY ON THE MEASLY $200,000 ALI-MONY I GET FROM MEL...
HUH. TIMES 'R' TOUGH ALL OVER, I GUESS...
TWO HUNDRED GRAND?!
WHAT DOES SHE DO WITH ALL THAT MONEY? EAT IT?
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR COAT, WHILE I—
I MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT! I'LL CATCH MY DEATH!
SUIT YOURSELF... (SHEESH!)
MEANWHILE, I'LL GET YOUR BED READY FOR YOU...
OH, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY SLEEP ON THAT, NOT WITH MY ARTHRITIS...
I'LL JUST SLEEP ON THE SOFA...
I DON'T HAVE A SOFA!
I WAS GONNA USE THIS SLEEPING BAG!
OH.
IN THAT CASE I'LL JUST STAY UP.
"STAY UP"? YOU MEAN, ALL NIGHT?
SURE. WHY NOT?
I DO IT ALL THE TIME...
DO YOU GET THE HOME SHOPPING CHANNEL ON THIS THING?

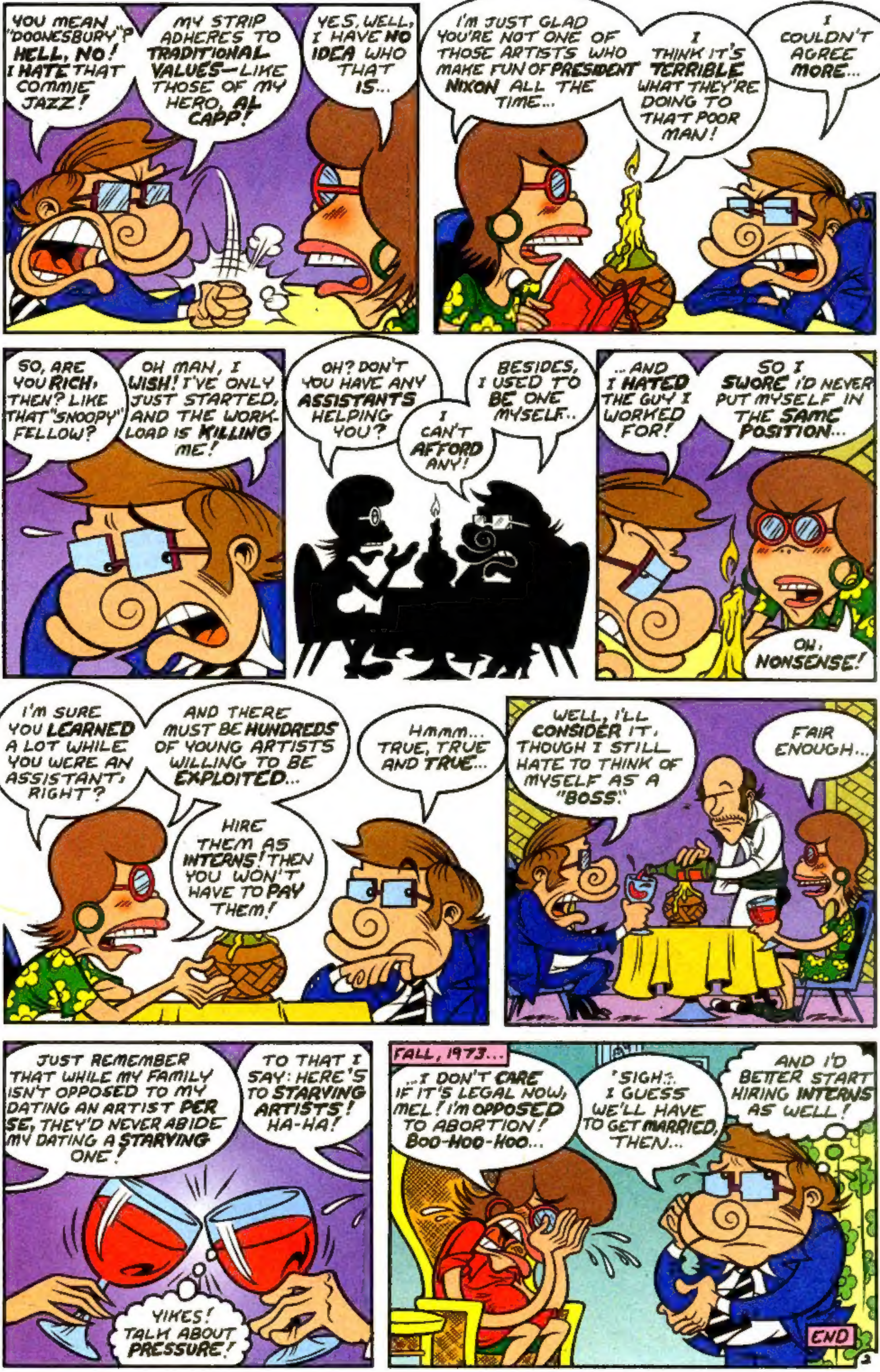
HOURS LATER...
...YES, THOSE BRACELETS YOU'RE OFFERING... ITEM 1978... ARE THOSE REAL TITANIUM?.. IS THAT GUARANTEED? ALSO...
GOOD GOD... NOW SHE'S ORDERING CRAP OFF THE TV...
THESE LOVELY ITEMS COULD BE YOURS...
...HOW CAN I VERIFY THAT THAT'S REALLY DELTA BURKE'S SIGNATURE ON THOSE 8X10'S?
AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHERE HER MONEY GOES.
...ON AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS OF FORMER SIT-COM STARS...
:SIGH:
ARRGH! NOW SHE'S SIGHING AGAIN!
SHE'S EITHER SIGHING OR ORDERING!
:SIGH:
OH, CARRIE! ARE YOU AWAKE?
HOW'D YOU GUESS?
GOOD, BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...
IS IT OKAY IF I HAVE THE TV PEOPLE DELIVER MY ORDERS HERE?
HERE? WHY?
YOU WON'T EVEN BE HERE TOMORROW—RIGHT?
WELL, I—
YOU ALREADY DID TELL THEM TO SEND IT HERE, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU HAD NO INTENTION OF LEAVING ANY TIME SOON, DID YOU?
I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT IT UP SOONER...
ONLY I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS INCONSIDERATE?
IT'S NO WONDER YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS!
WELL! THERE'S NO NEED TO GET HUFFY...
THERE'S PLENTY OF NEED TO GET HUFFY!
YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!
ME? WHAT DID I DO?


WHAT DID YOU DO? TRY EVERYTHING!
...THE SIGHING, THE NITPICKING, THE PENNY-PINCHING...
IT'S A DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS...
EVEN YOUR VOICE IS LIKE FINGERNAILS ON A BLACK-BOARD...
"SCREEE"...
HUMPF! YOU SOUND LIKE A CERTAIN EX-HUSBAND I KNOW.
DO I? GOOD!
I HAVE A NEW-FOUND RESPECT FOR MEL!
HE MUST'VE HAD THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT TO PUT UP WITH YOU!
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS...
I'M LEAVING!
GOOD! LEAVE!
YOU HAD NO CHOICE, ANYWAY!
MAYBE IF YOU HOCK YOUR PEARLS YOU COULD AFFORD A CHEAP MOTEL ROOM...
...YOU BITCH!
SLAM!
OH MY...
??
I REALLY DID SOUND LIKE MEL FOR A MINUTE THERE...
THE NEXT DAY...
...AND THEN SHE TOLD THEM TO SHIP IT TO MY ADDRESS!
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DELTA BURKE?
BEATS ME...
MEL WAS RIGHT. SHE IS A NIGHT-MARE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE LIVED WITH HER FOR SO LONG...
NO KIDDING.
I NEVER COULD STAND HER MYSELF...
?!? HEY!
YOU TOLD ME SHE WAS A "VERY NICE PERSON"!
I DID?
OOPS. I DID, DIDN'T I...
YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO CON ME, WERE YA?
NO, NOT AT ALL!
IT'S JUST THAT... WELL...
I GUESS I FORGOT THAT I HATED HER!
?!?
END.

Peter Bagge, Writer; Bill Wray, Artist & Letterer; Joanne Bagge, Colorist


HERE, TRY HITTING IT AT A DOWNWARD ANGLE, LIKE THIS!
BASH!
SPRONG!
GEE, THANKS
STOP, THIEF!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? THAT WAS MY BIKE!
OH YEAH? PROVE IT!
SHOW ME THE KEY TO THE LOCK!
ZIP!
I CAN'T, BECAUSE IT WAS A COMBINATION LOCK!
OOPS! MY BAD..
AND THEN...
BOO-HOO-HOO...
I AM SO SAD!
?!?
WHY THE CROCODILE TEARS, BIG GUY?
MEADOWLA
SPORTS
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BLOW UP THE MEADOWLANDS SPORTS COMPLEX, BUT MY HOLY BOMB, SHE WILL NOT GO OFF!
NOW I'LL NEVER GET MY NINETY-NINE VIRGINS IN SUICIDE HEAVEN!
OH NO!
LET ME TRY AND FIX IT!
OH, WOULD YOU? COULD YOU?
I'LL CERTAINLY GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY...
... BESIDES, I HATE SPORTS TOO! HA HA!
KA-BOOM!
OH THANK YOU...
FOR A GODLESS AMERICAN DEVIL WITCH WHORE, YOU ARE VERY KIND...
SPLAT!
SPLOOT!
ANOTHER PROBLEM SOLVED BY: THE MEDDLER!!


MEL + IRENE'S
FIRST DATE
SPRING, 1973...
I MUST SAY, YOU'RE LOOKING LOVELY TONIGHT, IRENE...
"LOVELY"? SHE'S RED HOT! YOWZAH!
WHY, THANK YOU, MEL!
WORDS: P. BAGGE
PENCILS: S. GLADDEN
INKS: J. BLANCHARD
COLOR: J. BAGGE
SEPS: ZYLONOL
EDITOR: J. CAVALIERI
OOH, AND HE'S SEATING ME, TOO! WHAT A GENTLE-MAN!
YOU DON'T SEE GESTURES LIKE THAT TOO MUCH THESE DAYS...
AND I LIKE THAT YOU DON'T GO IN FOR THIS FEMINIST BUNK, IRENE!
OH, I'M JUST AN OLD-FASHIONED GIRL AT HEART...
WHICH IS WHY I EXPECT YOU TO PAY THE BILL! HA HA!
I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY...
YIKES! LOOK AT THESE PRICES!
Menu
I'M IN WAY OVER MY HEAD HERE...
BUT I GOTTA MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION, SINCE SHE'S A HIGH-CLASS BROAD 'N' ALL...
HER FAMILY'S IN THE SOCIAL REGISTER!
SO, TELL ME ABOUT THIS NEW COMIC STRIP OF YOURS...
OH! WELL, IT'S CALLED "FREDDY FERRET," AND IT'S ABOUT A FERRET, SEE, AND, UH...
BASICALLY IT'S A VEHICLE TO EXPESS MY VIEWS ON THE FOIBLES OF MODERN-DAY LIVING...
OOH! I GOTTA REMEMBER THAT LINE!
IS IT LIKE THAT OTHER NEW STRIP? YOU KNOW, THAT HIPPIE ONE?
1


YOU MEAN "DOONESBURY"? HELL, NO! I HATE THAT COMMIE JAZZ!
MY STRIP ADHERES TO TRADITIONAL VALUES—LIKE THOSE OF MY HERO, AL CAPP!
YES, WELL, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THAT IS...
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE ARTISTS WHO MAKE FUN OF PRESIDENT NIXON ALL THE TIME...
I THINK IT'S TERRIBLE WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO THAT POOR MAN!
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE...
SO, ARE YOU RICH, THEN? LIKE THAT "SNOOPY" FELLOW?
OH MAN, I WISH! I'VE ONLY JUST STARTED, AND THE WORK-LOAD IS KILLING ME!
OH? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY ASSISTANTS HELPING YOU?
I CAN'T AFFORD ANY!
BESIDES, I USED TO BE ONE MYSELF...
...AND I HATED THE GUY I WORKED FOR!
SO I SWORE I'D NEVER PUT MYSELF IN THE SAME POSITION...
OH, NONSENSE!
I'M SURE YOU LEARNED A LOT WHILE YOU WERE AN ASSISTANT, RIGHT?
AND THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF YOUNG ARTISTS WILLING TO BE EXPLOITED...
HIRE THEM AS INTERNS! THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY THEM!
HMMM... TRUE, TRUE AND TRUE...
WELL, I'LL CONSIDER IT, THOUGH I STILL HATE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A "BOSS".
FAIR ENOUGH...
JUST REMEMBER THAT WHILE MY FAMILY ISN'T OPPOSED TO MY DATING AN ARTIST PER SE, THEY'D NEVER ABIDE MY DATING A STARVING ONE!
TO THAT I SAY: HERE'S TO STARVING ARTISTS! HA-HA!
YIKES! TALK ABOUT PRESSURE!
FALL, 1973...
...I DON'T CARE IF IT'S LEGAL NOW, MEL! I'M OPPOSED TO ABORTION! BOO-HOO-HOO...
SIGH... I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GET MARRIED, THEN...
AND I'D BETTER START HIRING INTERNS AS WELL!
END

DC IN DEMAND

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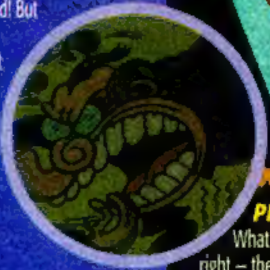
This Month's Cover by...
PETER BAGGE



The Sweatshop is closed! But look for Peter Bagge's contribution to the next Bizarro Comics extravaganza!

PLASTIC MAN #1 (DECEMBER '03)

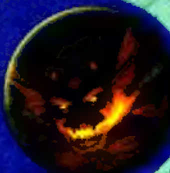
What's crazier – giving PLASTIC MAN a monthly series, or having Kyle Baker produce it? Heck, how about both? That's right – the mad creative genius behind WHY I HATE SATURN and I DIE AT MIDNIGHT vows to turn DC's most malleable hero into a pliant, pliable, permeable protagonist for the 21st century! (And did we mention it's really funny?) Plas's frantic antics begin this December (but don't forget to bounce between his own series and JLA)!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

iCANDY #1

When a video game character takes the form of Matt Delaney's missing sister, the line between the video game and the real world begins to blur. Written by Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning; art by Kalman Andrasofszky.

THE DEMON: DRIVEN OUT #1 (OF 6)



Yakuza. Street racers. The Demon. When Jason Blood cuts a deal with modern-day alchemists, he gets much more than he bargained for. By Joshua Dysart, Pop Mhan and Art Thibert.

JLA-Z #1 (OF 3)

Featuring the first of a triptych of covers by Phil Jimenez, this stunning handbook for the Justice League includes villains and heroes from Amazo to Green Arrow, and features artwork by Jim Lee, Scott McDaniel and Jeff Parker.

SUPERMAN: BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS

The final work of legendary artists Gil Kane and John Buscema! The Man of Steel's memories hark back to an era where the House of El began, but can Superman's earliest ancestor defy the great god Rao and restore order to Krypton?

WINICK'S LATEST CAPER

Judd Winick is a solo act writing OUTSIDERS, but word on the inside is that he and **Farel Dalrymple** (*Pop Gun War*) have conspired on a CAPER full of double-crosses, lies and lots of murder. Dalrymple also illustrates the first of three 4-issue miniseries, in which brothers/hit men Izzy and Jacob betray their Jewish Mafia bosses in turn-of-the-century San Francisco. The next storyline, drawn by **John Severin** (*Rawhide Kid*), stars Hollywood movie moguls mixed up in sex scandals and homicide, while the final arc involves artist **Tom Fowler** (*Grendel*), a human-organ courier and a transplanting mixup at the office. Plan to fit CAPER onto your reading list this October!

GET YOUR OWN DETECTIVE #27!

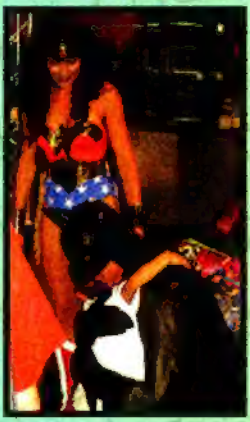
Our ears almost popped when we heard DC was giving readers an opportunity to get their own copy of DETECTIVE #27 in November. But it's true – Batman movie producer **Michael Uslan** and STARMAN artist **Peter Snejbjerg** are the men responsible for this ELSEWORLDS hardcover in the tradition of *The Alienist* and *Carter Beats the Devil*. And they guarantee that when young Bruce Wayne becomes the 27th operative in a Secret Society of Detectives, there'll be a surprise twist that will chill any fan of Batman's mythos to the bone! Wear a heavy jacket when you pick up this instant classic!

– your MOLE at 1700

To get more of DC In Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/dcindemand right now!

MONOLITH-IC MYTH-CONCEPTIONS

Jimmy Palmiotti and **Justin Gray** have finished dealing 21 DOWN for the moment, but they – with artist **Phil Winslade** (*Howard the Duck*) – have formed a mean feat of clay in THE MONOLITH. This new monthly explores the symbiotic relationship between a young woman ruled by drugs and a monstrous, childlike creature molded for vengeance against criminals. What we saw of the first issue has us convinced that THE MONOLITH is gonna be huge when it hits comics shops this December!



Batman greets a young fan at Comic-con International in San Diego, while Wonder Woman looks on.

Photo by Jeff Parker.

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